

News Release  
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Contact: Steve Jones  
(202) 226-3450

## ISTOOK ON CRIME BILL: IT HELPS CRIMINALS, NOT THE LAW

While supporters of the so-called Crime Bill proclaim the bill to be tough on crime, Oklahoma Congressman Ernest Istook, (R-5th District), today called it "dangerous," and argued it will *help* criminals rather than being tough on them. During a joint news conference today with Oklahoma County District Attorney Bob Macy, Istook said the bill as written would effectively abolish the death penalty, as well as waste precious resources on programs that have nothing to do with fighting crime.

"One portion of the bill, the 'Racial Justice Act,' as it is called, would do away with the death penalty, by imposing a racial quota system on capital punishment," Istook said. "All a killer has to do is present statistics showing those of his race get sentenced to death more often than members of other races, and he can escape the death penalty. They can even escape the death penalty based on the *victim's* race! Then everyone else gets off death row under 'equal protection' laws."

Istook also notes most of the bill consists of multi-billion-dollar expansion of government social programs, with the same old stuff simply renamed as "crime-fighting" measures.

"The bill spends about \$8-billion on items such as midnight sports programs at federal housing projects and job training programs (to add to the \$17-billion a year we already spend on those). To call these 'crime-fighting' programs is an exercise in deception."

Istook also says it does nothing to enact "truth-in-sentencing" laws, or to stop the revolving door that releases dangerous convicts early on parole. Nor does it repeal any of the "exclusionary rules" which restrict police work, and let crooks get off on technicalities.

"Oklahoma and America want a tough-on-crime approach. Knowing this, Washington is pretending to get tough, hoping words will speak louder than actions."

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